(b) if so, the percentage of bio-fertilizers out of the total quantum of fertilizers being utilised in India; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to enhance the use of bio-fertilizers and to increase production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS: (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Bio-fertilizers are being recognized as an important source of plant nutrient to supplement the chemical fertilizers. However, at present they constitute a small percentage of the total plant nutrients used in the country.

(c) For enhancing the production and use of bio-fertilizers, the Government has provided financial assistance for setting up of bio-fertilizer units, formulated standards of important bio-fertilizers for ensuring their quality and is promoting the use of bio-fertilizers through extension, training and field demonstrations.

Privatisation of vehicle repair and pollution checks

3157. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recommendations of experts to privatise vehicle repair and pollution checks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the main recommendations of experts in this regard;

(d) whether the Ministry is considering implementation of the same; and

(e) if so, whether the Ministry has set any time-frame for the same?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The Expert Committee on Auto Fuel Policy set up by the Government of India has suggested a road map for reducing vehicular pollution. For reduction of pollution from in-use vehicles, the Committee in its report has suggested inspection, maintenance and certification system to replace the existing Pollution Under Control (PUC) system and establishment of repair shop or centres authorised by the vehicle manufacturers who can ensure necessary quality control checks.

No final decision on the recommendations has been taken as yet.